

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached "Replacement Sheets" of drawings have been amended pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion and include changes to Figures 2 and 5. The attached "Replacement Sheets", which include Figures 1-6, replace the current sheets including Figures 1-6. No new matter has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-17 and 19-28 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the aforementioned Office Action is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. The basis for these amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner's findings that Claims 1, 4-17 and 19-25 "are allowed."

OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner's findings that the "drawing changes provided in the replacement drawings are approved."

The drawings stand objected to for certain informalities. Applicants have attached revised drawings ("Replacement Sheets") for the Examiner's approval. In the Replacement Sheets, reference numeral "69" has been added to Figures 2 and 5 in response to the Examiner's objection and pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion. Paragraph [0034] has been amended in order to present a more consistent disclosure. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter these replacement drawings, and reconsider and withdraw the objection to the drawings.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 26-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as “being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.” Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner’s rejection as it is Applicants’ view that the claims as written fully comply with Section 112. However, in the interest of expediting prosecution and without prejudice to pursuing this and related subject matter in future applications, Applicants have amended the specification and drawings pursuant to the Examiner’s suggestion.

Specifically, paragraph [0034] has been amended to read “[A]s illustrated in FIGS. 2 and 5, the two flex panels 40 and 42 cooperate to define a minimum diameter for the container 10 generally about each of their longitudinal midpoints 69.” Additionally, Figures 2 and 5 have been amended to include reference numeral “69”. As recited in Claims 26-28, the specification and drawings now more clearly set forth that the flex panels include a “longitudinal midpoint” and that the flex panels define “a minimum diameter for the container generally about said longitudinal midpoint”. In view of the above amendments and these remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the Section 112, second paragraph rejection to Claims 26-28.

CONCLUSION

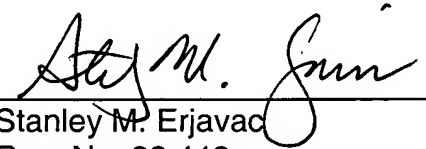
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It

is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, she is invited to contact the undersigned at her earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,
HARNES, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
Attorneys for Applicants

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By: _____


Stanley M. Erjavac
Reg. No. 38,442

P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

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